the moment when Jerusalem was
oncerned with matters of security,
Vashington officials evidently had
oo caught up in the political ex-
ion of the accord to worry about
g it.

ts: Clearly the tension between the
lies could only be eased if each
oncessions to the other's main con-
And, late last week, that was ex-
what happened. Washington re-
ly assured Jerusalem that it would
the sophisticated equipment that
jets would need to offset the So-
issiles—mainly the Shrike air-to-
missile and its Wild Weasel con-
ar. (The two devices, when fitted
S.-built Phantom jets already in
hands, combine to search out and
the radar of a SAM battery.)
s part, Israel formally notified
Nations mediator Gunnar Jarring
was ready to begin negotiations
gypt and Jordan on a peace set-
t—and that it was prepared to
mise on the arrangements for the
gs.

Israeli move opened the way for
to call representatives of the three
es together—perhaps as soon as
l of this week. Although the taci-
rring refused to disclose his plans,
were indications that the initial
would take place, as the Arabs
in the relative anonymity of New
id that they would be conducted
countries' U.N. ambassadors rath-
r by Foreign Ministers, as the
would like. Cairo has already
Mohammed H. el-Zayyat, its U.N.
ntative, as its chief negotiator.
a television interview last week,
at affirmed that Egypt would
ate in the peace talks with "great
ness and with hopes."

other developments in the Arab
nderscored the obstacles that lie
n a cease-fire and a lasting peace
Middle East. Despite the careful
ness of the U.S. statement on
e violations, Cairo responded to
jecting American monitoring of
al zone as a "pretext for espio-
Although surprised at the move,
in Washington regarded it main-
tactical ploy, and they insisted
S. surveillance flights would con-
Both sides are going to be very
n the negotiations," explained one
cial. "If we accuse the Egyptians
lation, they are going to deny the
e. But I don't for a minute be-
ey will try to shoot down a U-2."

ed to Negotiate: Despite their
lk about surveillance, the Egyp-
re clearly bracing for diplomatic
ions. Late last week, Jordan's
ussein flew to Cairo for a three-
nd of meetings with President
Abdel Nasser. The two leaders
tly discussed their bargaining
and mapped out contingency
plans for use if the talks collapse.
most important item on their
was the problem of the Pales-

EYES IN THE SKY OVER THE SUEZ

One day early last week, a spidery U-2 reconnaissance plane landed at a small airfield on the island of Crete in the Eastern Mediterranean. The pilot, an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency, carefully taxied his black-painted craft to a remote corner of the field, outrigger wheels holding the plane's long, floppy wings off the ground. The U-2 has been an infrequent visitor to the Middle East in recent years, for it was outclassed long ago by the faster, more agile SR-71 photo plane. But now that the shooting has stopped along the Suez Canal, the U-2 is no longer vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire, and the reliable, cheaply operated spy plane has found a place in the array of space-age gadgetry that is now being used to police the fragile cease-fire in the Middle East.

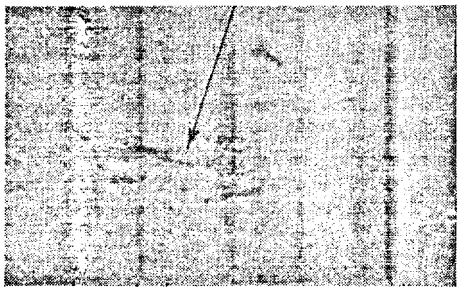
U-2 flights make up a large part of the American surveillance program in the cease-fire zone. Soaring aloft at 70,000 feet, the plane makes a daily reconnaissance run along the Israeli-held edge of the Suez Canal. In one sweep, according to Pentagon intelligence experts, the oblique cameras mounted on the plane provide good coverage for some 25 miles on each side. "The U-2 photos are damn good," says one well-informed American official. "They aren't as good as some enthusiasts claim—you can't read the name on a golf ball at 70,000 feet—but you can tell the difference between an Oldsmobile and a Cadillac, and that's all we need."

Impressive: More to the point, the pictures are so sharp that analysts can distinguish between Soviet SAM-2 and SAM-3 missiles, or between real and dummy installations. The photos produced by "spy-in-the-sky" satellites are equally impressive. Launched into polar orbit about 100 miles up, an updated version of the old Samos spy satellites photographs the entire globe as it revolves below. Every few days, the capsule ejects a film pack, which can be caught in midair by a plane or picked up from the surface of the Pacific by a warship. "We can get excellent photographs of any part of the world in a matter of days," says a Pentagon officer. "The only hitch is that we have to wait for the cameras to pass over the area we are interested in, and then we have to hope that there are no clouds and that the overflight occurs in daytime."

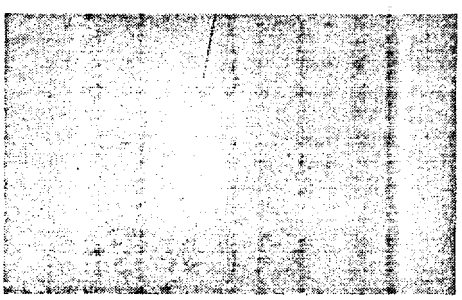
Unlike the Americans, Israel depends almost exclusively on airplane reconnaissance missions for its information on the deployment of Russian missiles across the canal. French-made Mirage photo planes, flying at upwards of 50,000 feet, record activity as far as 20 miles beyond the Suez. Israeli intelligence is augmented by land-based electronic listening devices capable of monitoring distant radar emissions and radio communications. But for all its sophistication, most experts believe that this equipment—designed originally for jamming radar during offensive raids—will be difficult to adapt to the job of policing the cease-fire.

On the Arab side, Russian pilots and photographic satellites provide Egypt with virtually all of its reconnaissance information. The Soviets have launched some eighteen Cosmos space capsules from their Plesetsk launch center near Archangel this year—including one high-resolution camera system the day before the cease-fire began. And Russian pilots stationed in Egypt and flying converted bombers have no doubt photographed the Israeli side of the truce line. But although the Soviets and their clients would probably like to know more about the location of Israeli Hawk anti-aircraft missiles, airfields and other bases, they do not share Israel's urgent concern over cease-fire violations. Unlike the Israelis, the Arabs have little reason to fear that their opponents will take advantage of the 90-day truce to prepare for a large-scale ground attack across the canal.

The ubiquitous eyes in the sky were a major factor in the establishment of a Middle East cease-fire on Aug. 7; given the deep suspicion on both sides, the truce would probably be unworkable without reconnaissance planes and satellites. But what electronics has joined together, it can also put asunder. For if the surveillance equipment should continue to discover violations of the cease-fire—or even raise suspicions of a violation—the guns of the Middle East could soon be roaring once again.



Israeli photos: Aug. 7 excavations



Aug. 16: Completed missile battery